

PCA

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

MONOGRAPH 5

UNLOCKING THE LANDSCAPE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT ASHFORD PRISON, MIDDLESEX
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POTTERY EVIDENCE:
THE DATING OF THE ASSEMBLAGE AND ITS INTERPRETATIVE
IMPLICATIONS

MIKE SEAGER THOMAS



was clear that they formed a link between the monument and the palaeochannel. The southwestern ends of the ditches were turned inwards slightly towards each other and the southern end of [2040] terminated at, or near to, the northern end of [2042], though the stratigraphic relationship between them was lost to later truncation.

A small assemblage of struck and burnt flint and some pottery was recovered scattered throughout the ditch fills, although no particular concentrations were noted. The pottery recovered consisted of Peterborough Ware that was not diagnostically different from that recovered from Ring-ditch 1 or Pit Group 3, suggesting that these features may have been broadly contemporary with either or both of these phases of the monument's use.

There was clearly a strong relationship between the southern ditch elements [2042] and [2044] and the parallel ditches to the northeast, so that the latter appear from their layout to have been a development and extension of the former. While not a perfect match, the alignment of [2040] is close to that of the [2042] ditches and they ended at almost, or exactly, the same place.

THE NEOLITHIC POTTERY

Mike Seager Thomas

Typological and chronological affinities

All of the typologically diagnostic Neolithic pottery from Ashford Prison belongs to the Peterborough Ware tradition. Peterborough Ware is divisible into three typologically sequential styles, Ebbsfleet Ware, Mortlake Ware and Fengate Ware (Smith 1974, 112). Traits characteristic of the first two were identified. Ebbsfleet Ware is best represented by Vessel 4 (Fig. 21.4), which has close parallels in assemblages from the type-site, in the bed of the Ebbsfleet in Kent, and another Thames Valley site, Baston Manor, Hayes (Burchell and Piggott 1939, fig. 5; Smith 1973, fig. 6.3). Like Vessel 4, both of these vessels have square rims with criss-cross incisions on top and tool-impressed decoration inside their necks. Also characteristic of this style are the square rim and thin body of Vessel 1 (Fig. 21.1). A precise typological attribution of this vessel, however, is not possible as its overall twisted-cord impressed decoration, the herringbone pattern formed by this, and its sharply carinated shoulder are paralleled exactly in the 'Mortlake Bowl' (Field and Cotton 1987, fig. 4.13). The exact demarcation line between the two styles varies depending upon which author is followed but other Mortlake Ware forms from Ashford Prison probably include the sharply carinated shoulders/cavetto zones of Vessels 2 and 3 (Figs 21.2, 21.3), the former's heavily tooled body, and the latter's thick body, characteristics which are paralleled in Mortlake Ware vessels from Badshot long barrow and Heathrow (Keiller and Piggott 1939; Grimes 1960, figs 75-77).

The existence of Peterborough Ware groups, such as that from the Ebbsfleet type-site, which comprise Ebbsfleet Ware only, that of groups such as that from Ashford Prison, which comprise both Ebbsfleet and Mortlake Ware, and that of groups such as that from Heathrow which comprise only Mortlake Wares, suggests a genuine chronological succession. This would allow for an extended period of later Neolithic pottery deposition at Ashford Prison. However, evidence from West Kennet long barrow, where all three Peterborough Ware styles were found in the same context, and a series of overlapping radiocarbon dates on different Peterborough Ware styles demonstrates that at some point – probably during the later 4th millennium BC – all three were in use concurrently (Piggott 1962, 27; Gibson and Kinnes 1997). It is to this period that the Ashford Prison site most probably belongs. Three pieces of evidence combine to support this view. Vessel 1's mixed styling, which, although perhaps attributable to local fashion (elaborately decorated Ebbsfleet Ware vessels also occurred at nearby Thorp: Grimes 1960, fig. 71), suggests a familiarity with both styles; the earliest Ashford Prison context to yield Peterborough Ware, the secondary fill of Ring-ditch 1, yielded forms belonging to both styles (Vessels 1 and 2); and the fabrics in which these two vessels, and all other diagnostically Peterborough Ware sherds from Ashford Prison occur, were recurrently associated. This strongly suggests a single period group. A later 4th millennium BC date is indicated by the radiocarbon date from pit [754], the fill of which is most probably derived from Ring-ditch 1.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery from Ring-ditch 1

- Fig. 21.1 Vessel 1. Angular shoulder, concave neck and flat squared rim of Peterborough Ware bowl. Large diameter. Fabric CF2. Herring-bone pattern comprising twisted-cord impressions on inside of neck and on surviving outer surfaces. Oxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core (from secondary fill [584] of Ring-ditch 1)
- Fig. 21.2 Vessel 2. Angular shoulder and concave neck of Peterborough Ware bowl. Large diameter. Fabric CF1. Two lines of triangular, tool-impressed indentations below shoulder carination and above a triangle pattern comprising a horizontal and three opposing whip-cord impressed lines. Weathered/burnt. Oxidized exterior and interior surfaces, and unoxidized core (from secondary fill [1495] of Ring-ditch 1)
- Fig. 21.3 Vessel 3. Angular shoulder, concave neck/cavetto zone and internally expanded rim of Peterborough ware bowl. Fabric CF2. Faint horizontal twisted-cord impressions on outer surfaces of neck and shoulder. Oxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core (from cleaning of Ring-ditch 1).
- Fig. 21.4 Vessel 4. Slightly out-turned concave neck and flat squared rim of Peterborough Ware bowl. Fabric CF2. Tool-impressed decoration on inside of neck and incised, cross-hatched decoration on rim top. Oxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core (from cleaning of Ring-ditch 1).

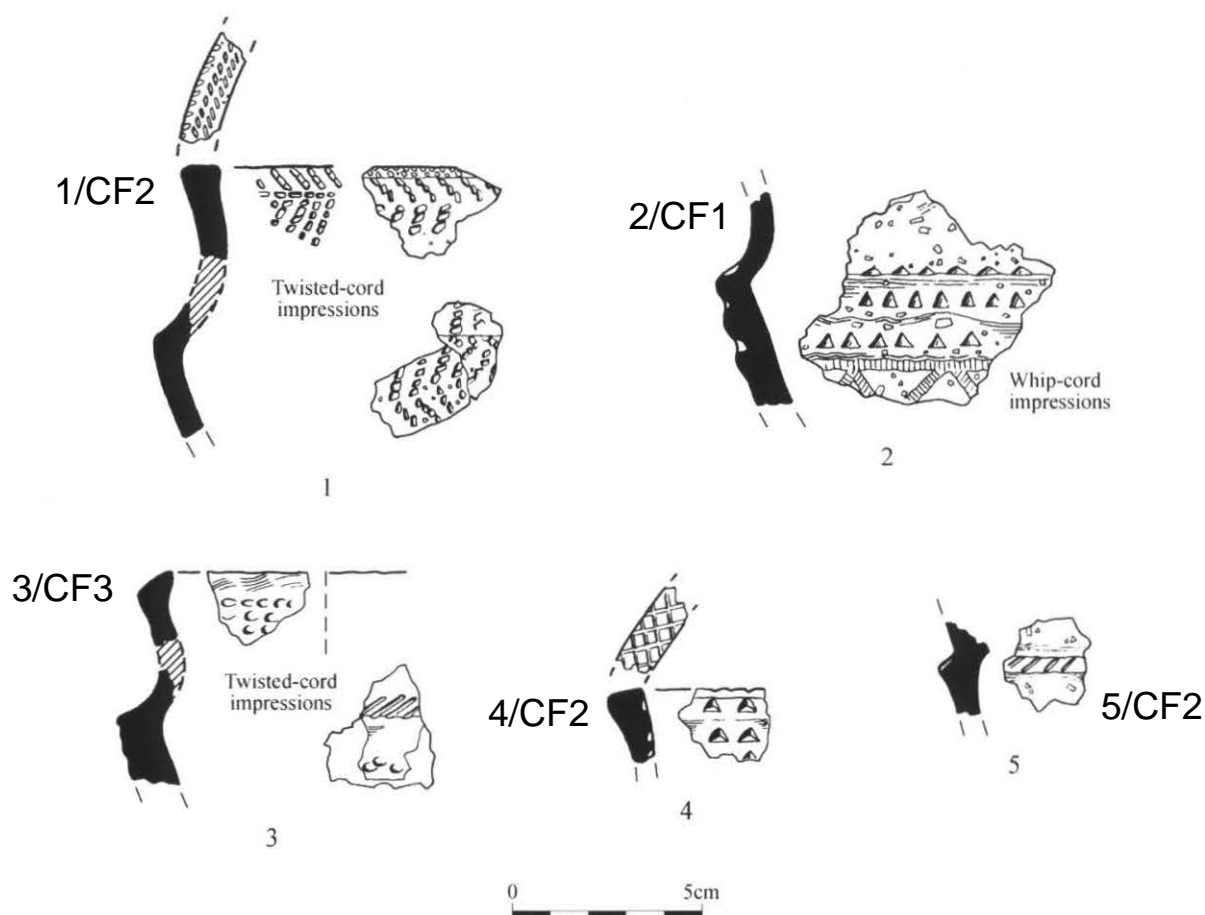


Fig. 21 Peterborough Ware bowls (scale 1:2)

Fig. 21.5 Vessel 5. Bone-impressed ?shoulder of Peterborough Ware bowl. Fabric CF2. Oxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core (from cleaning of Ring-ditch 1).

Fabrics

Of nineteen prehistoric fabrics distinguished on site (see Appendix 1) five were diagnostically Neolithic (fabrics CF1, CF2, CFCQ, F1 and FF). Insofar as the available descriptions allow direct comparison, a number of individual fabrics from the site have parallels in other Surrey/Thames Valley assemblages: fabric CF1, for example, resembles the description of a Peterborough Ware fabric from Weston Wood, Albury (Russell 1989, 14), and fabrics FF and CFQ resemble Peterborough Ware fabrics from Staines causewayed enclosure (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 67; Whittle 1987, 90). The range of fine, medium and coarse textures is also widely paralleled. This uniformity, however, is best evinced by non-local Peterborough Ware parallels for the most abundant of the Neolithic fabrics identified: fabric CF2. Its defining characteristics are its

silky finish, the patchiness of its flint inclusions and its laminated structure. These are the consequence of the way the clay was worked. The same characteristics occur in Peterborough Ware from as far afield as Chichester (Portfield Football Ground, unpublished) and Iwade in north Kent (Bishop and Bagwell 2005, 21-23). Despite the apparently 'ritual' nature of the site, there is nothing out of the ordinary about the Peterborough Ware. How we interpret this depends on how we interpret Peterborough Ware. It may relate to a particular period in time, which radiocarbon dating is insufficiently subtle to isolate; it may have been reserved for a particular use (see Thomas 1999, 111, 120).

The internal relationships of the Neolithic assemblage

Neolithic pottery was focused on Ring-ditch 1 and three ditches running approximately northeast of it. In material terms there is little difference between feature assemblages. Where typologically diagnostic material is present, it belongs to the Peterborough Ware tradition, and all groups

belong to the same fabric suite. What differs is the density of pottery finds: many more pottery finds were made in the upper fills of Ring-ditch 1 than in the lower. This can be attributed to a change in the intensity of proximate pottery-using activity, a change in the mode of deposition in the ring-ditch, or a change in the fill source. Irrespective of which, it implies a change in the feature's status. This change, dated by the Peterborough Ware assemblage to the end of the 4th millennium BC, was structurally analogous to the fills of other Neolithic monuments such as West Kennet, which were closed down with deposits comprising mixed domestic material (Piggott 1962). Additionally, the bulk of the pottery from Ring-ditch 1 is from its north side. It was here that the two most finds-rich of the pits were located ([588] and [677]). Peterborough Ware from these features is indistinguishable from that comprising Vessel 1, and, although no sherd joins were identified, it is likely that it comes from the same vessel.

Discussion

The Neolithic group comprises Peterborough Ware. Two types can be distinguished: Ebbsfleet and Mortlake Ware which, on stratigraphic grounds, are shown to belong a single period group. Typologically it is linked to sites like Badshott long barrow and Heathrow, which yielded Peterborough Ware only, and set apart from sites like Staines causewayed enclosure, which yielded a wider variety of Neolithic pottery types. Its internal relationships link it to broadly contemporary non-local ritual sites.

For this Neolithic assemblage, the principal observations relate to the similarity between it and many other Peterborough Ware assemblages, and the similarity between its internal relationships and those of assemblages from other Neolithic monuments. If Peterborough Ware had a special role, the meaning of a monument may have been enhanced by its incorporation in it; alternatively, if it was ordinary domestic pottery, either the monument was made ordinary by its incorporation in it, ie, the deposition of Peterborough Ware marks the end of its ritual use, and/or Peterborough Ware – and by extension the domestic realm from which it was derived – was made extraordinary. In the absence of clear evidence for other structured deposition in Ring-ditch 1, the author prefers the second option: the deposition of Peterborough Ware marks the end of its ritual use.

FLINT AND CHERT ARTEFACTS FROM THE NEOLITHIC MONUMENT COMPLEX

Barry Bishop

A total of 163 pieces of struck flint and 1.6kg of burnt flint were recovered from the various features associated with the monument. The struck flint was manufactured from fine-grained black or brown translucent flint, which was of relatively good knapping quality, although often badly affected by thermal flaking. A few pieces were made from

a coarser-grained, chertier flint, but the proportions of these were significantly less than seen in the later industries (see Chapter 4, below). The cortex, where present, suggests that the raw materials were mostly obtained from the local gravel terrace deposits. The flakes and blades were small, rarely exceeding 40mm in dimension, and thermal flaking had limited the control that was able to be exerted over the flaking, resulting in many thermally broken flakes and concoidally shattered pieces.

Two flakes struck from ground-edged implements were also present. These were both manufactured from light grey flint with darker mottling, but one (from linear ditch [2044] to the south of the monument) was noticeably more translucent and of finer grain. Although the colour

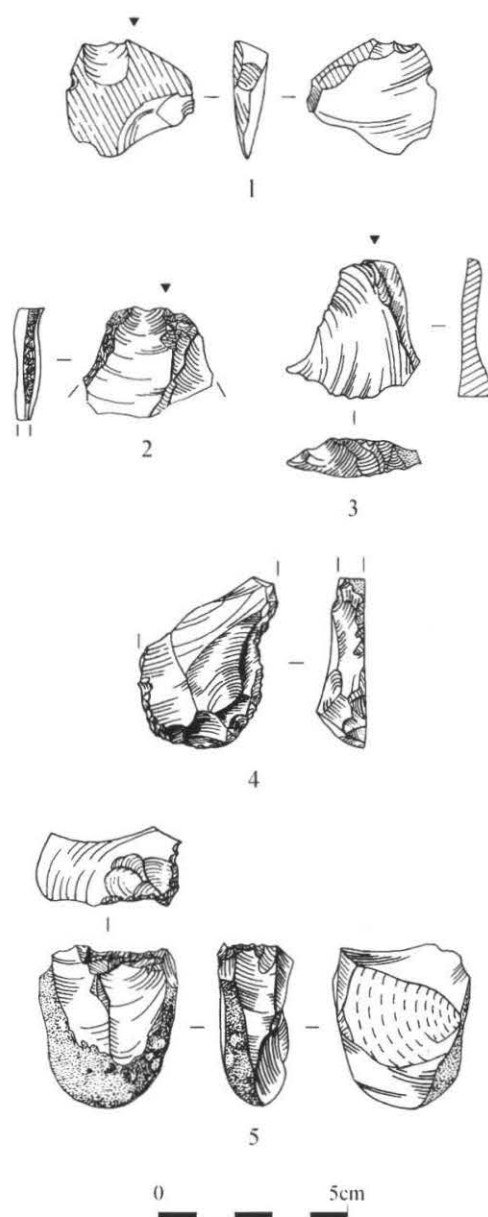


Fig. 22 Worked flint from the Neolithic monumental complex: 1–3 from the ring-ditch, 4–5 from the linear ditch to the south (scale 1:2)



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Neolithic pot 1



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Neolithic pot 2

THE BRONZE AGE POTTERY

Mike Seager Thomas

Early first millennium BC

A number of shouldered and one convex-sided vessel in the assemblage display characteristics primarily associated with the post Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, conventionally dated to the early first millennium BC (Barrett 1980; Needham 1996). Only three sherds, however, can be confidently dated to this period: Vessel 6 (Fig. 28), which comprises the rim and finger-tip impressed shoulder of a shouldered jar, and an unillustrated vessel, which is in the same minority fabric as Vessel 6 and decorated with a double row of finger-tip impressions. Analogous post Deverel-Rimbury pottery is known from nearby sites at Brooklands (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977), Petter's Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986), Heathrow (Canham 1978) and Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991; Needham and Spence 1996). These assemblages can be divided by fabric, typologically and by radiocarbon dated association into two chronologically sequential groups. The earlier, comprising the material from Runnymede Bridge, dates to around the eighth century BC or the Late Bronze Age, the later, comprising that from the remaining three sites, dates to around the sixth century BC or the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition. Vessel 6 has parallels in all four assemblages and an unillustrated vessel (D) has parallels at Heathrow (Canham 1978, fig. 16.43). It is assumed therefore that the early first millennium BC occupation of the site dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition. The remaining vessels with post Deverel-Rimbury characteristics occur in the same fabrics as the later Iron Age assemblage and are assumed to belong to this later period (see Chapter 5, below).

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

Fig. 28 Cat. 6. From Iron Age Circular Structure 4: Finger-tip impressed shoulder, concave neck and flat, internally expanded rim of probable post Deverel-Rimbury shouldered jar. Fabric FCQ (Fe). Oxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. Cut [771], fill 808 (upper fill).

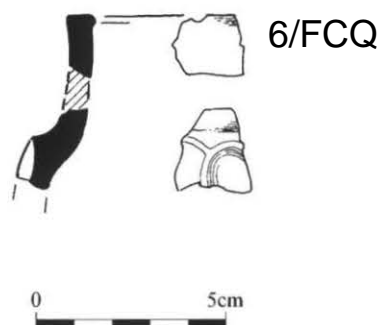


Fig. 28 Post Deverel-Rimbury shouldered jar (scale 1:2)

The small size and poor stratification of the early first millennium BC assemblage precludes further meaningful study of its regional context and suggests that the focus for activity during this period lay off-site.

THE LATER PREHISTORIC FLINT AND CHERT ARTEFACTS

Barry Bishop

Altogether 251 pieces of struck flint were recovered from the post-Neolithic contexts, most came from features associated with the Iron Age settlement with only 43 pieces recovered from the field-system. At least some of this is likely to have been residually deposited from the earlier, Mesolithic and Neolithic, activity at the site, which has been discussed previously. The material from Iron Age features is discussed below.

Burnt Flint

Only modest quantities of burnt flint were recovered from the Bronze Age field-system (945 fragments in total, weighing 1526g), mostly scattered in low quantities, but with two minor concentrations recorded. These were in the corner of ditches [2060], [2062] and the entrance of [2005]. These may signify the importance of these junctions or entrances, with fires or hearths being built close-by, although the quantities were still not large and do not indicate intensive or prolonged activity.

Struck Flint

Raw material

The raw materials utilized by the later prehistoric population were very variable, with much use made of coarse-grained grey, yellow, brown and red cherty flint with smooth-rolled or chattermarked surfaces. They often displayed some degree of iron staining and were almost certainly obtained from the local terrace gravel deposits. The cobbles used were small, rarely producing flakes over 40mm in maximum dimension. Their knapping potential was often severely compromised by thermal flaking, as well as the frequent presence of small vesicles and pockets of quartz, resulting in only limited control being exercised over resultant flake production. Some use was made of the finer-grained flint types that characterized the earlier industries, but as the use of these types was very much in a minority, it appears that few attempts were made to locate the better-quality raw materials.

in diameter, 0.60m wide, and 0.20m deep and partially truncated in the northwest. It was tightly positioned in the space between Circular Structure 5 and the Neolithic monument, the gaps between them being only 0.9m and 2.2m respectively.

The ditch contained two similar fills, the earlier one being darker in colour and sandier in texture. The finds density was moderate to high in both fills, with a concentration close to the southern entrance terminal (see Fig. 61). Within the pottery assemblage there were a few sherds from the Middle to Late Iron Age or later, and some belonging to the Late Iron Age. There were no features within the area enclosed by Circular Structure 9 other than probable tree-throw hollows.

On the basis of their dates and positions Circular Structure 9 might conceivably be seen as a simple replacement for Circular Structure 5, however, the position of Circular Structure 9 and the orientation of its entrance are unusual; its entranceway faces northwest, in direct contrast to the other roundhouses identified on site with their east to southeast-orientated entranceways. The other Iron Age structures on the site were more widely separated, both from each other and from the Neolithic monument, which was probably still visible as a surviving earthwork.

Circular Structure 3, the northern inner ditch

There is evidence for continued use of one other roundhouse into this Late Iron Age phase. The evidence for this is the presence of Late Iron Age pottery in the northern, inner ditch fill of Circular Structure 4, which may suggest that the feature remained in use throughout the Iron Age occupation of the site. There is no evidence for any of the others continuing in use at this time.

The length of time that elapsed between the filling of the first of these ditches and the last may have been considerable, over 100 years, a fact which needs to be considered in the context of the likely longevity of the structure. This is difficult to estimate; construction techniques, local weather conditions, frequency of repair and nature of occupation or use, are all variables, which might affect survival. During experimental work in Denmark extensive decay was observed as setting in after 3–4 years, indicating that rebuilds or substantial maintenance may have been required every 5 to 10 years (Coles 1973, 63). If a roundhouse were permanently occupied repairs would presumably be carried out as part of general maintenance. The potential age a structure might attain can only be guessed at as experimental work has not been carried out over a sufficiently long period; the oldest reconstructed roundhouse standing in Britain at present is that at Castell Henllys, built in 1981.

Four-post Structure 9

Four-post Structure 9, the smallest of those identified on site being only 1.9m across, was located towards the southwest of the area of excavation, inside the area that had been occupied by Circular Structure 4. The posts

themselves were also apparently small, represented by postholes 0.35 – 0.40m in diameter and 0.15 – 0.25m deep, with vertical sides and slightly rounded bases. Two produced modest amounts of burnt flint and pottery, with the bulk of the pottery being dated to the Late Iron Age.

THE IRON AGE POTTERY

Mike Seager Thomas

Later Iron Age pottery comprises the bulk of the assemblage recovered from the site and was present in all the ring-ditches, and associated with most of the four-post structures. The analysis of the later Iron Age assemblage provides a useful exercise in, and a much-needed guide to, the typology, dating and affinities of later Iron Age pottery from the region.

The typological and chronological affinities of the Iron Age assemblage

Owing to a lack of sequentially stratified parallels for the Iron Age assemblage locally, ordering and dating individual vessels and context groups within it is problematic. It appears, however, to be divisible into three overlapping chronologically and typologically sequential groups. The earliest most probably comprises the vessels with post Deverel-Rimbury affinities (referred to in Chapter 4, above). Typologically none of these vessels would be out of place in an early first millennium BC context but their fabrics and associations here, and a handful of Middle Iron Age parallels for them elsewhere, most notably in Essex, allow for a Middle Iron Age date. How long if at all they continued in use thereafter is unknown. The next, overlapping with the foregoing group but perhaps continuing in fashion after it, comprises classic Thames Valley Middle Iron Age forms such as the globular bowl, saucepan-pots and bi-partite jars, usually associated with south-central England, and a number of forms such as rounded jars with vestigial necks, foot-rings and barrel-shaped, convex-sided jars which are not regionally specific. It probably belongs to the end of the Middle Iron Age (the 2nd century BC). The last comprises forms with Atrebatian and/or Belgic affinities traditions, which occur in southeast and south-central England. These are usually dated to the Late Iron Age (later 1st century BC/early 1st century AD). At Ashford Prison they include sherds from closed-mouth jars with 'pointed' or 'bead' rims and a round shouldered jar with an out-turned internally thickened rim, both types which occur in Middle and Late Iron Age contexts, and a pedestal base in a grog-tempered Belgic fabric which is Late Iron Age. Each of these groups has the same fabric associations and is conformable, more or less, to the stratigraphy of the site (Appendix, Table 9).

Shouldered jars

The Iron Age assemblage incorporates feature sherds from eight or nine shouldered jars. Of these, six can be reconstructed sufficiently for meaningful parallels to be identified. Their principal diagnostic features are rounded shoulders, short upright or slightly flared necks, and simple rim forms (Vessels 7, 9, 32, 33, 41 and 45, Figs 49.1, 49.3, 53.1, 53.2, 54.4 and 55.3). Two shouldered jars, and another vessel, the form of which cannot be reconstructed, have finger-tip impressed or cabled rim tops (Vessels 9, 33, 40, Figs 49.3, 53.2 and 54.3). Collectively these vessels are best paralleled in the period II and III assemblages from Little Waltham in Essex. These are quite unlike Early Iron Age assemblages from the region (eg Loft's Farm well, Brown 1988), include no indisputably post Deverel-Rimbury vessels, and incorporate a number of later Iron Age types, particularly an S-profile jar type widely paralleled in the southeast (Drury 1978, figs 37-38). Accordingly they are dated to the Middle Iron Age. More proximate Middle Iron Age shouldered jar parallels are reported from Heathrow (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, figs 28.64 and 68) and Isleworth (Timby 1996, figs 6.38 and 39), but these attributions should be treated with caution as the assemblages from both sites were dominated by post Deverel-Rimbury pottery, and the attribution of these vessels based on fabric type alone.

Globular bowls

Globular bowls are usually associated with the Midlands and the upper Thames Valley (Harding 1974, 196; Cunliffe 1991, 85-7) but individual examples are known from at least two other Surrey sites, Wisley and Hawk's Hill (Lowther 1945, figs 2.29 and 3.39; Cunliffe 1965, fig. 6.1), and from as far east as Bigbury in Kent (Thompson 1982, fig. 1.74). Ashford Prison yielded two globular bowls, one decorated (Vessel 46, Fig. 56.1) and one undecorated (Vessel 37, Fig. 53.6). Decorated forms are shown by their stratigraphic relationships at Draughton, Northamptonshire, to have developed later than undecorated forms, and it has been observed that bead rims and a truly globular form, such as are found in the decorated vessel from Ashford Prison, are a late development (Cunliffe 1991, 87; Harding 1974, 196). This accords with evidence from Bigbury, where the globular bowl was associated with early Belgic forms, and Ashford Prison where both globular bowls had late associations. The cross-hatched motif on Vessel 46, in so far as it survives, resembles that on another Wisley bowl and is assumed to be of local provenance (Lowther 1945, fig. 3.30).

Bi-partite jars

Vessel 34 (Fig. 53.3) has south-central affinities. Its wide-grooved decoration is best paralleled at Maiden Castle, Dorset, where it is one of the defining characteristics of Cunliffe's Middle Iron Age Maiden Castle-Marnhull style (Cunliffe 1991, 83, fig. A 19), and its form in assemblages

from two Hampshire sites, Charlton and St Catherine's Hill, Winchester, where it was associated with decorated saucepan pottery (Cunliffe 1976, figs 35-37; Hawkes *et al* 1930, fig. 14). Radiocarbon dates associated with decorated saucepan pottery from a third Hampshire site, Danebury, suggest that it did not become common in the region until the third or even the second century Cal BC (Cunliffe and Orton 1984, fig. 5.1, cp. 7), and, although it is unlikely that it impinged much on the following century, its co-occurrence with Atrebatian wares or early amphorae on other south-central sites, notably Hengistbury Head (Cunliffe and Brown 1987, 305) and Torberry (Cunliffe 1976, fig. 20), indicate that it continued up to it. Accordingly, a date towards the end of the Middle Iron Age is suggested for the present vessel. This would be consistent with its on-site associations, which are Middle Iron Age, Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age.

A second bi-partite jar, Vessel 17, 25, is also a south central type (Fig. 50.7). It has a close parallel in the cemetery assemblage from Westhampnett, near Chichester in West Sussex (Fitzpatrick 1997, fig. 75, grave 20148). Both vessels have out-turned, internally thickened rims, and, below the rim, are decorated with rows of dots and diagonally burnished lines. Westhampnett cemetery, which is dominated by Belgic and contemporary native forms, is dated to the first half of the first century BC on the basis of its metalwork associations (*ibid.*, 203). The parallel for the present vessel was assumed to belong to the cemetery's earliest phase, ie the beginning of the first century BC, as it was found close to the interior perimeter of the site (*ibid.*, fig. 113). The motif used to decorate it is widely paralleled locally in saucepan pottery, and because of its form, which, like the flint-tempered fabrics in which both it and the present vessel occur, is approximately paralleled in the decorated saucepan pot assemblage from Charlton (Mephram 1997, 130; Cunliffe 1976, 35.15). Once again a date around the end of the Middle Iron Age is appropriate.

Saucepan pottery

Sherds from two undecorated saucepan pots come from different Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age contexts (Vessels 18 and 31, Figs 51.1, 52.6). Radiocarbon dates on undecorated saucepan pottery from Danebury place it, at its earliest, in the fourth century cal BC (Cunliffe and Orton 1984, fig. 5.1, cp. 6), but many later associations are known.

Convex-sided jars

Four or five convex-sided jars were distinguished (Vessels 15, 23, 44 and 48, Figs 50.5, 51.6, 55.2, 56.2 and one unillustrated vessel). Despite the post Deverel-Rimbury affinities of at least one of these vessels (Vessel 27, Fig. 52.2) as a group, they are more characteristic of Middle Iron Age than earlier first millennium BC traditions. All five are in, and are related by, the same sandy fabric. The exterior of one is horizontally scored, a trait that occurred in a stratigraphically late position at Ashford Prison (Vessel

41, Fig. 54.4, from pit [687]) and is paralleled in a convex-sided jar in a sandy fabric from a Middle Iron Age context at Heathrow (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, fig. 29.73). Of the remainder, three are burnished (Vessels 15 and 23, Figs 50.5, 51.6 and one unillustrated vessel) and one roughly finger-finished (Vessel 27, Fig. 52.2), a ratio of fine to coarsely finished vessels much more characteristic of later Iron Age than early first millennium BC traditions. Further Middle Iron Age parallels are known from Brooklands (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977, figs 18.123), Cassington in Oxfordshire (Harding 1972, plate 64c), and in the decorated saucepan pot assemblage from Charlton (Cunliffe 1976, fig. 36).

Late rim forms

In addition to the bead rim, two related forms, the 'pointed' rim (Vessels 11, 13, 20 and 31, Figs 50.1, 50.3, 51.3, 52.6) and the finger-tip impressed/slashed bead rim (Vessels 38 and 39, Figs 54.1, 54.2), are thought to belong to the end of the Middle Iron Age. Pointed rims come from three features. In two cases they were associated with Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age pottery types or fabrics, and in one case they were from the upper of two later Iron Age fills. Parallels for them come from Hawk's Hill (Cunliffe 1965, fig. 7), where they were associated with decorated saucepan pottery, and Bigbury (Thompson 1983, figs 12.63 and 82), where they were associated with early Belgic pottery. The only known local parallel for the finger-tip impressed/slashed bead rims (from Brooklands) comes from a Middle Iron Age context and is in a typical Surrey/Thames Valley later Iron Age fabric (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977, 37, fig. 22.198). Both vessels from Ashford Prison were stratified above Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age material (in pit [687]).

Foot-ring and pedestal bases

Also present are sherds from two foot-ring bases (Vessel 36, Figure 53.5 and one unillustrated vessel) and two pedestal bases (unillustrated). The former most frequently occur on a jar type with an S-profile present in assemblages from London (Sidell *et al.* 2002, fig. 39.33), Little Waltham (Drury 1978, fig. 48.202), Bigbury (Thompson 1983, figs 10.19 and 11.78), Hawkinge in Kent (Aerodrome site, unpublished, I. Thompson pers. comm.), and several Sussex sites including Findon Park (Wolseley *et al.* 1927, 21, fig. 11) and the Caburn (Curwen and Curwen 1927, 32, fig. 59) (Vessel 27, Fig. 52.2, is also probably of this sort). The accepted dating of this form varies widely. The earliest dated of the examples given here is that from Findon Park, which, on the basis of an association with an early brooch type, is locally grouped with Cunliffe's Early Iron Age Park Brow-Caesar's Camp group (Cunliffe 1991, 72; Hamilton and Gregory 2000, Table 3). The remainder have much later Iron Age associations. Those from London and Little Waltham are in a glauconitic fabric increasingly recognized as a component of later Iron Age assemblages in Essex, Kent and the London areas (eg Sidell *et al.*, 2002,

43; I Thompson forthcoming); both Kent assemblages incorporate Belgic pottery; while the vessel from the Caburn was found in a pit with a potin coin, which, at its earliest, dates from the end of Middle Iron Age (Curwen and Curwen 1927, 49; Haselgrove 1987, 100). Accordingly, a date close to the end of the Middle Iron Age can be suggested. Foot-ring bases and pedestal bases also occur on fully Belgic, ie, Late Iron Age, grog-tempered wares (eg Thompson 1982). One unillustrated vessel is of this type.

Round-shouldered jar

After the unillustrated vessel mentioned above, possibly the latest Iron Age sherds from the site belong to a flint-tempered jar with a rounded, out-turned, internally-thickened rim (Vessel 42, Fig. 54.5). The rim form of this vessel is similar to that of the decorated bi-partite bowl discussed above (Vessel 17, 25, Fig. 50.7). Similar forms on round-shouldered jars, however, were associated with Atrebatian pottery at Ewell (Cotton 2001, fig. 5.14), with Belgic pottery on two Kent sites, Iwade (Lyne 2005) and Canterbury (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 45-45), and with early Romano-British pottery at Heathrow (Canham 1978, fig. 28.139). Vessel 42 is tied by its fabric, and the associations of this fabric, to the end of the Middle Iron Age (see Appendix, Table 8).

A number of vessels remain which do not fit within any of the foregoing categories (eg Vessels 10, 43 and 48, Figs 49.4, 55.1, 56.3). Owing to their irregular typology, they are difficult to parallel but such forms are, nonetheless, recurrent in later Iron Age assemblages, with parallels coming from numerous sites both within and outside the region. Their associations at Ashford Prison, both contextual and fabric, best show their likely possible date ranges.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery

Circular Structure 4

Fig. 49.1 Vessel 7. Flared neck and flat, internally expanded rim of probable shouldered jar. Rim diameter c. 16cm. Fabric Q2. Burnt. Oxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From lower fill of penannular gully, conjoins with sherd from upper fill.

Fig. 49.2 Vessel 8. Thickened upper 'shoulder' and flat out/up-turned rim of closed mouth jar. Fabric FFCQ. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surface, oxidized to unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From lower fill of penannular gully.

Circular Structure 9

Fig. 49.3 Vessel 9. Rounded shoulder, upright neck and cabled rim of shouldered jar. Medium or small diameter. Fabric U1. Oxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Circular Structure 2

Fig. 49.4 Vessel 10. Rounded shoulder, short concave neck and rounded rim of vestigial necked jar. Fabric CQ2. Oxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Circular Structure 6

Fig. 50.1 Vessel 11. Rounded upper 'shoulder' and externally expanded and internally bevelled 'pointed' rim of closed mouth jar. Rim diameter c. 19 cm. Fabric U2. Weathered exterior. Unoxidized to oxidized (brown) exterior surfaces, unoxidized to unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From upper fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 50.2 Vessel 12. Flat internally expanded rim of probable shouldered jar. Fabric U1. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. Cut 532, fill 534 (lower fill).

Fig. 50.3 Vessel 13. Upper 'shoulder' and externally expanded and internally bevelled 'pointed' rim of closed mouth jar. Fabric

U2. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From upper fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 50.4 Vessel 14. Flat rim with internal bevel. Fabric CQ2. Weathered exterior. Oxidized exterior margin, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From lower fill of penannular gully.

Circular Structures 6 and 7 (intersection)

Fig. 50.5 Vessel 15. Rounded shoulder and rounded in-turned rim of convex-sided jar. Rim diameter c. 22 cm. Fabric CQ2. Burnished exterior. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of gully intersection between structures.

Fig. 50.6 Cat 16. Flat base. Diameter 8cm. Fabric U1. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of gully intersection between structures.

Fig. 50.7 Vessel 17. Upper shoulder and out-turned, rounded, internally thickened rim of probable bi-partite jar or bowl. Rim diameter c. 14cm. Fabric F2. Burnished exterior. Tooled/

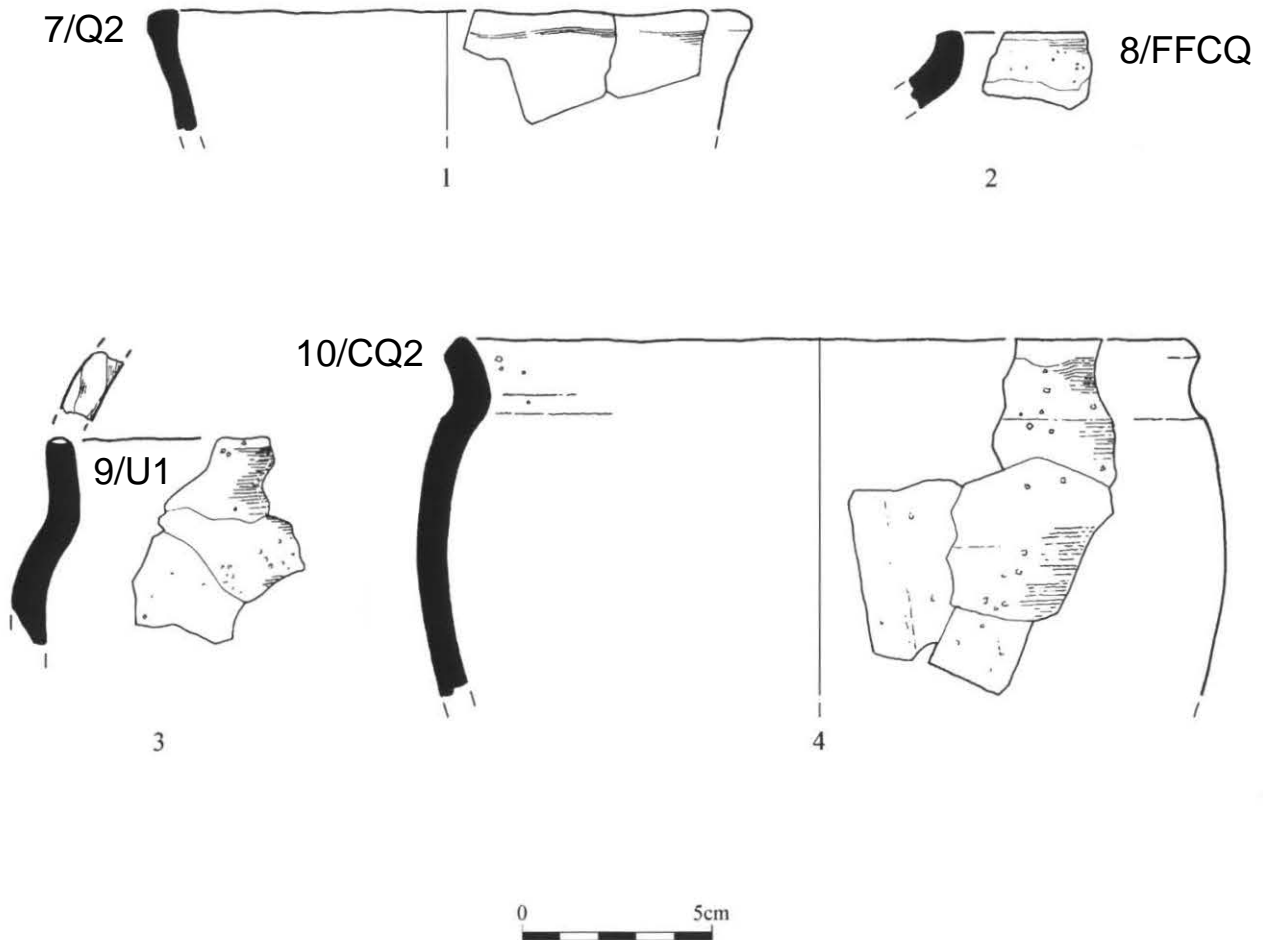


Fig. 49 Pottery from Circular Structures 4, 9 and 2 (scale 1:2)

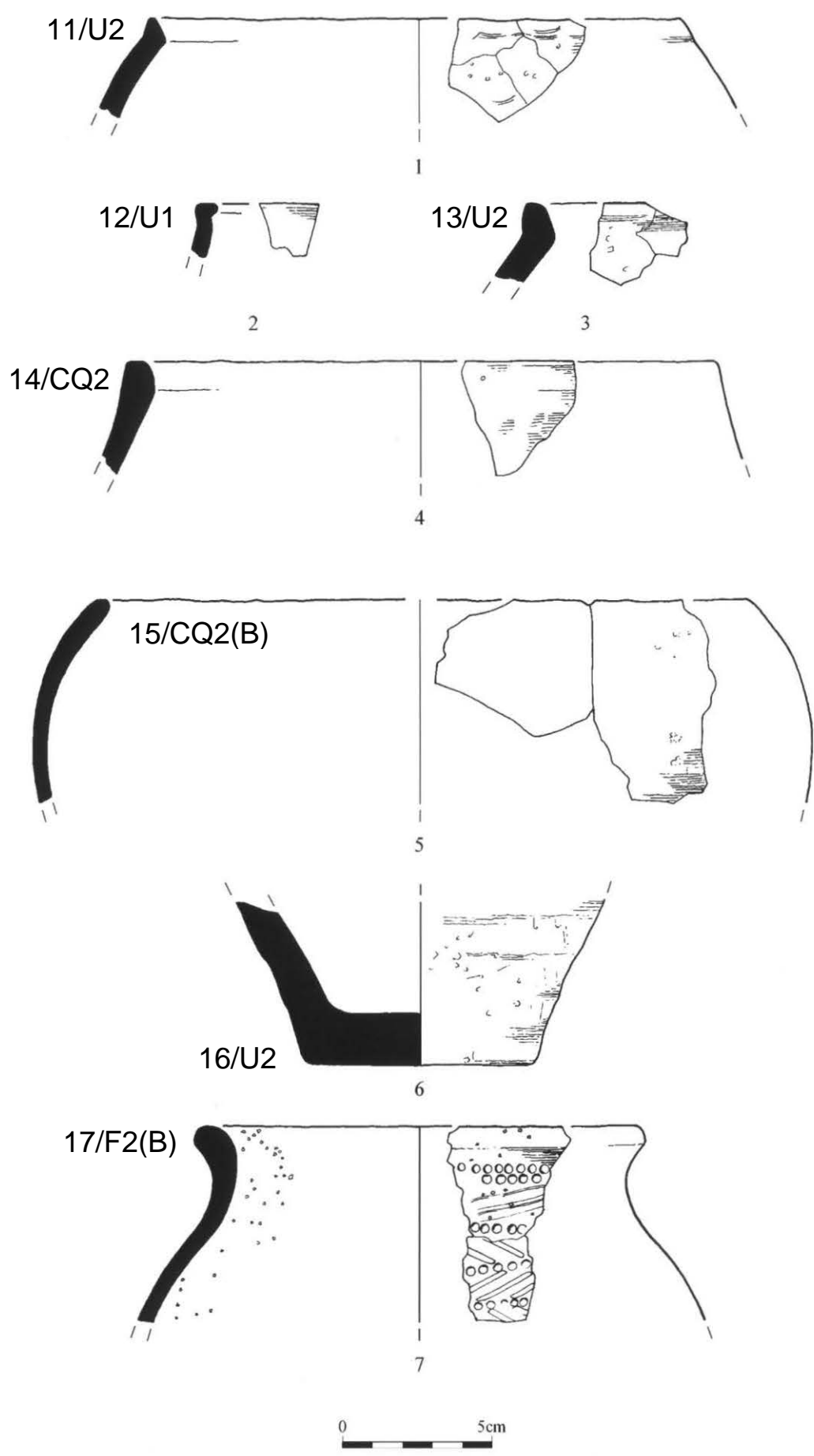


Fig. 50 Pottery from Circular Structure 6 and the gully between Circular Structures 6 and 7 (scale 1:2)

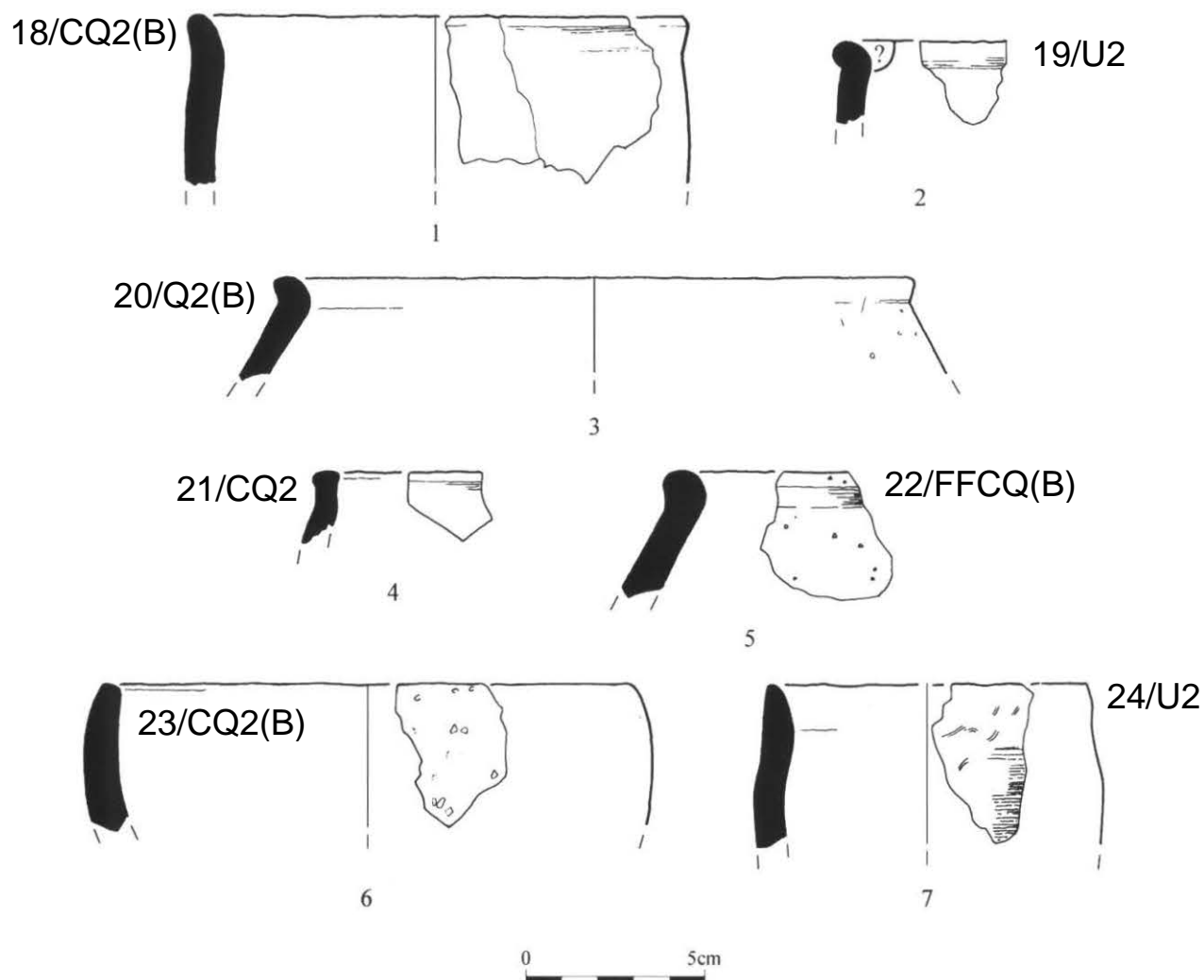


Fig. 51 Pottery from Circular Structure 7 (scale 1:2)

burnished decoration comprising three or more horizontal dot-rows (double immediately below the rim) separated by diagonally burnished lines. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of gully intersection between structures, conjoins with sherd from Circular Structure 7 gully and from same vessel as/identical to sherds from Circular Structure 9 and pit [712].

Circular Structure 7

- Fig. 51.1 Vessel 18. Upright body and slightly out-turned rounded rim of saucepan pot. Rim diameter c14 cm. Fabric CQ2. Burnished. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.
- Fig. 51.2 Vessel 19. Upper 'shoulder' and rounded, externally expanded bead rim of saucepan pot or globular jar. Fabric U2. Two ?tooled grooves immediately below rim. Oxidized exterior surface, oxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully..
- Fig. 51.3 Vessel 20. Upper 'shoulder' and externally expanded and internally beveled 'pointed' rim of closed mouth jar. Rim

diameter 18cm. Fabric Q2. Burnished. Oxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized to oxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

- Fig. 51.4 Vessel 21. Short upright neck and flat squared rim of probable round shouldered jar. Fabric CQ2. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core.
- Fig. 51.5 Vessel 22. Upper 'shoulder' and rounded, externally expanded bead rim of closed mouth jar. Fabric FFCQ. Burnished. Oxidized (brown) exterior surface, oxidized to unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.
- Fig. 51.6 Cat 23. Rounded in-turned rim of convex-sided jar. Fabric CQ2. Burnished. Oxidized to unoxidized (dark red) exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.
- Fig. 51.7 Vessel 24. Rim. Fabric U1. Oxidized exterior surface, oxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.
- Fig. 50.7 Vessel 25. (This is illustrated with Vessel 17, which is part of the same vessel.) Upper shoulder and out-turned, rounded,

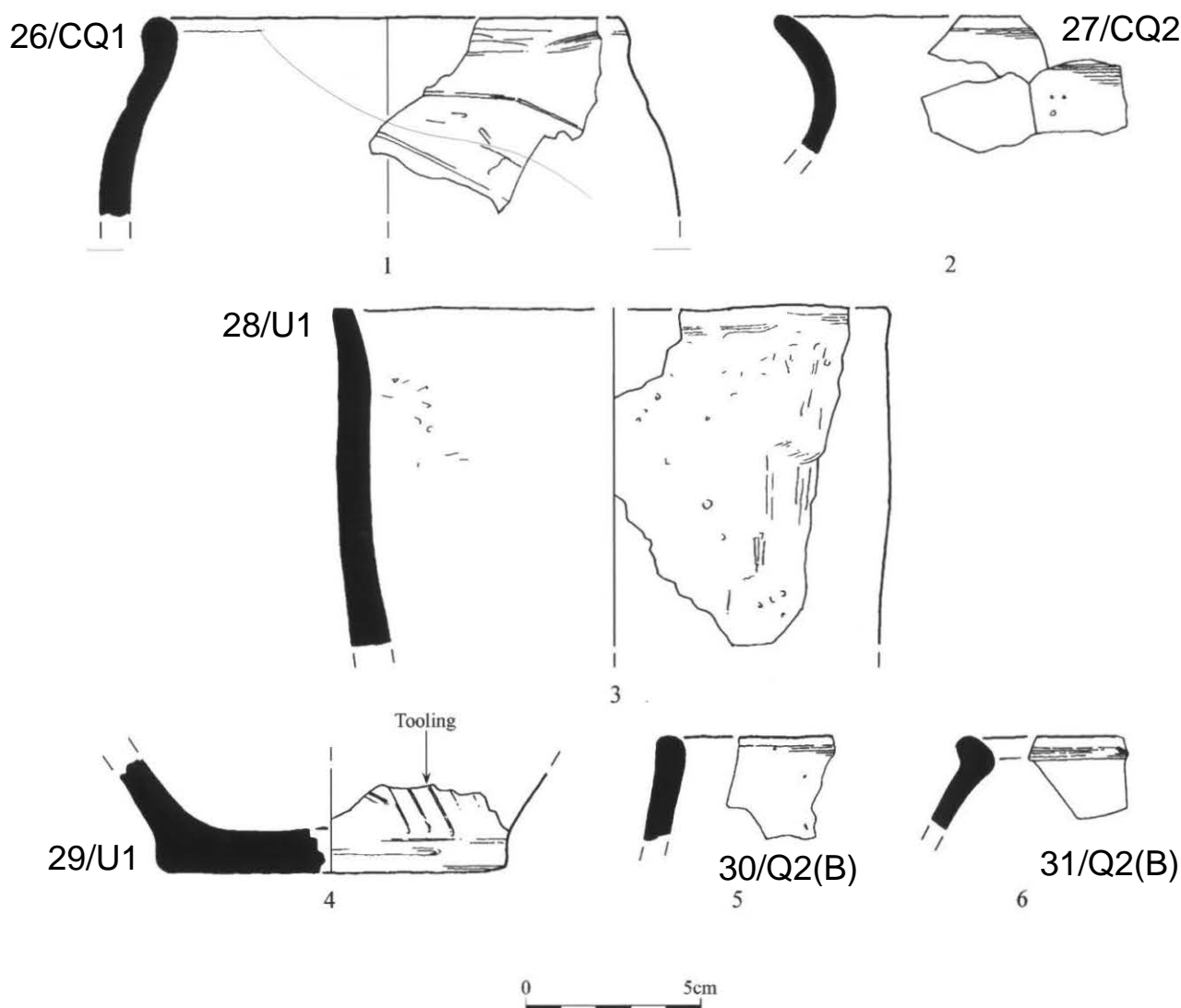


Fig. 52 Pottery from Circular Structure 8 (scale 1:2)

internally thickened rim of probable bi-partite jar or bowl. Rim diameter c. 14cm. Fabric F2. Burnished exterior. Tooled/burnished decoration comprising two horizontal dot-rows (double immediately below the rim) separated by diagonally burnished lines. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully, conjoins with sherd from intersection of gullies between Circular Structures 6 and 7 and from same vessel as/identical to sherds from Circular Structure 9 and pit [712].

Circular Structure 8

Fig. 52.1 Vessel 26. Rounded shoulder and slightly out-turned, rounded rim of shouldered or globular jar. Rim diameter 14cm. Fabric CQ1. ?Grass-wiped exterior. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 52.2 Vessel 27. Flared neck and rounded rim of probable round shouldered jar. Fabric CQ2. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized exterior margin, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 52.3 Vessel 28. Upper body and flat squared rim of straight sided jar. Diameter 16cm. Fabric U1. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surface, oxidized to unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 52.4 Vessel 29. Flat base. Fabric U1. Diagonal tooling on lower body. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 52.5 Vessel 30. Rounded, slightly internally expanded rim of saucepan pot. Fabric Q2. Burnished. Unoxidized exterior surface, oxidized exterior margin, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Fig. 52.6 Vessel 31. Slightly rounded upper 'shoulder' and externally expanded and internally bevelled 'pointed' rim of closed mouth jar. Fabric Q2. Burnished. Unoxidized exterior surface,

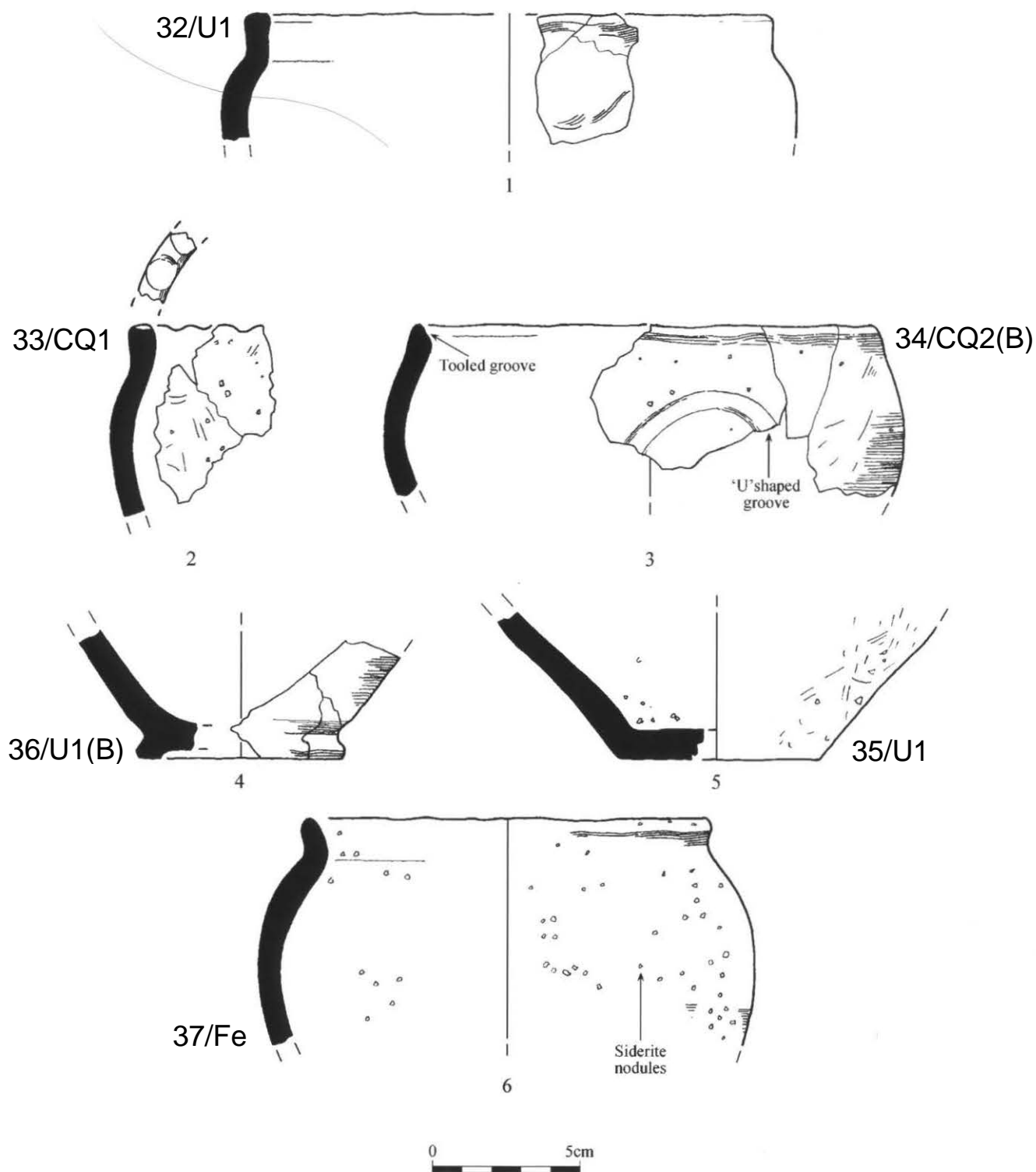


Fig. 53 Pottery from Circular Structure 3 (scale 1:2)

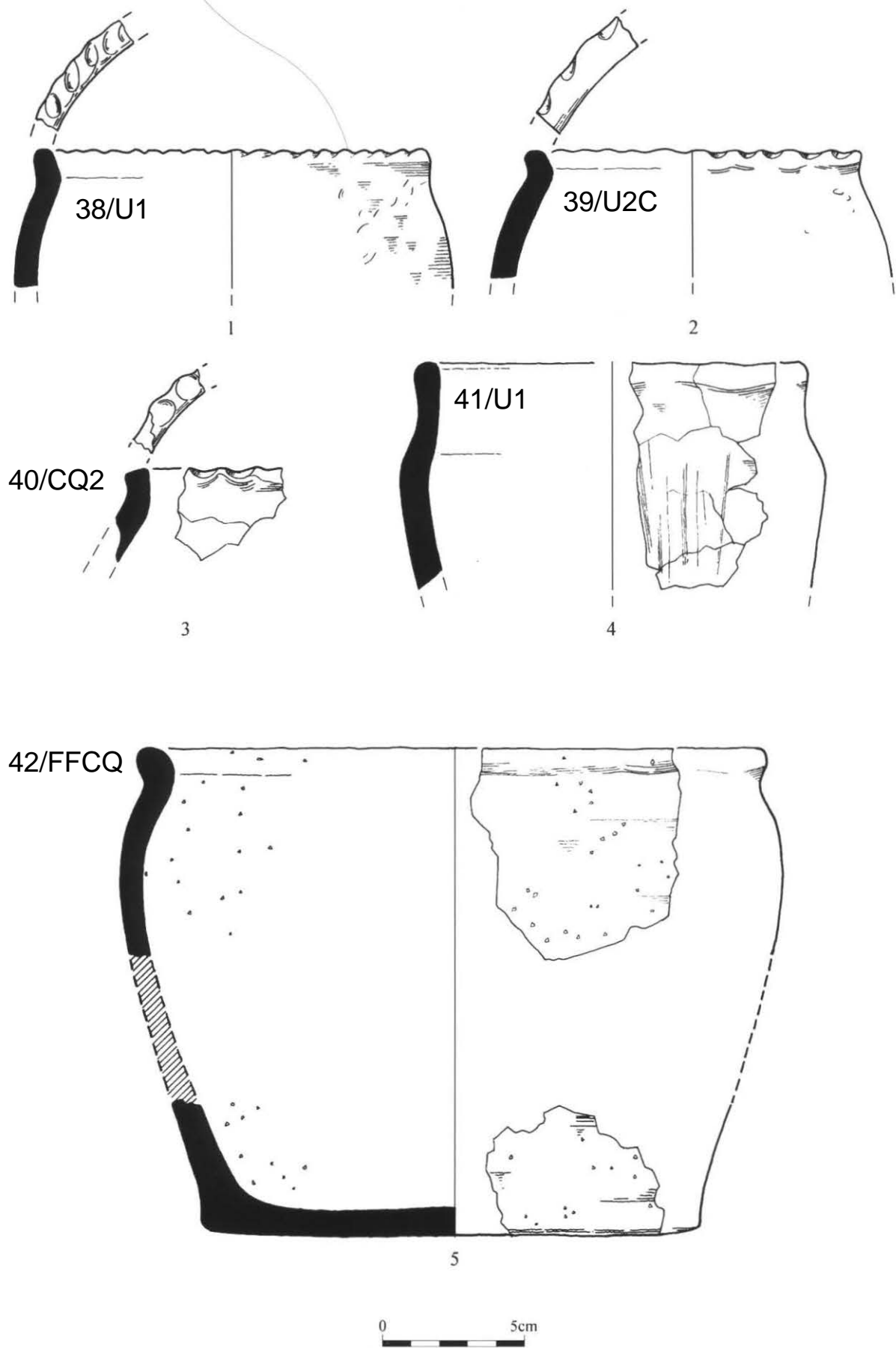
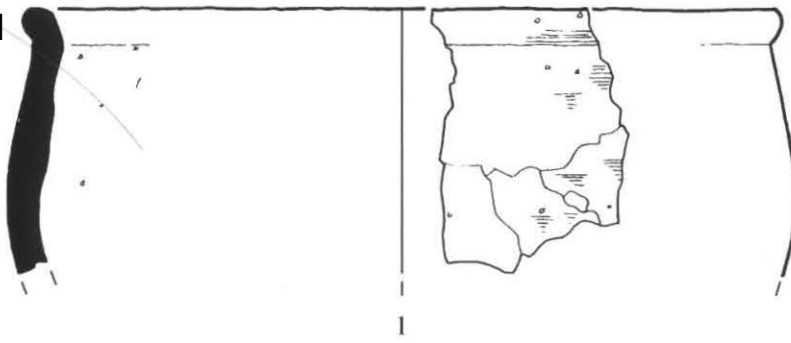
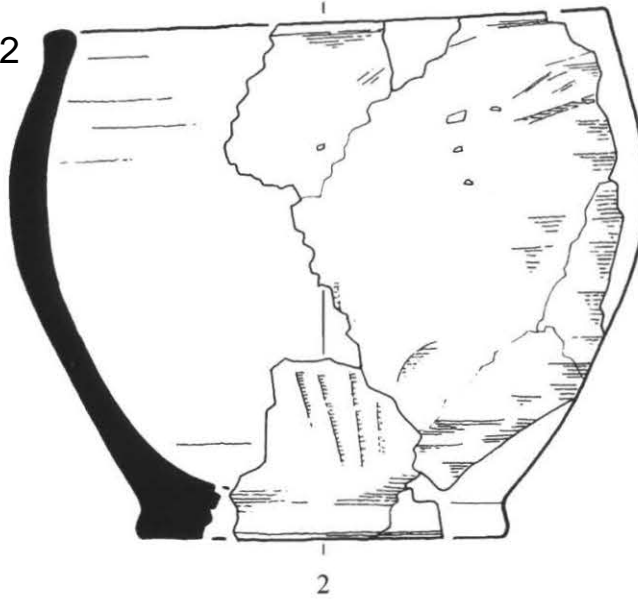


Fig. 54 Pottery from the ditch terminal recut in Circular Structure 4 and pit [712] in Circular Structure 9 (scale 1:2)

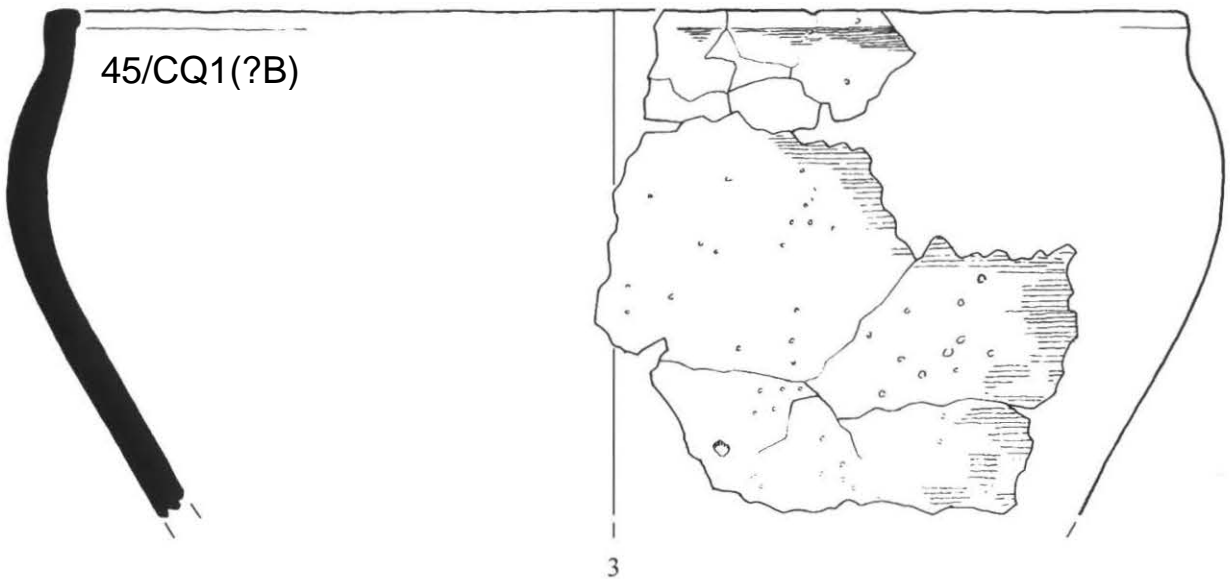
43/CQ1



44/CQ2



45/CQ1(?B)



0 5cm

Fig. 55 Pottery from pit [797] in Circular Structure 7, pit [1426] in Circular Structure 8 and pit [1453] in Circular Structure 3 (scale 1:2)

unoxidized interior surface, and oxidized core. From fill of penannular gully.

Circular Structure 3

Fig. 53.1 Vessel 32. Rounded shoulder, short upright neck and flat squared rim of shouldered jar. Fabric U1. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of outer gully.

Fig. 53.2 Vessel 33. Rounded shoulder, upright neck and finger-tip impressed rim of shouldered jar. Fabric CQ1 (with unusually coarse quartz sand). Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized to unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core. From fill of northern inner gully.

Fig. 53.3 Vessel 34. Rounded shoulder and slightly externally expanded, internally bevelled, grooved rim of bi-partite jar or bowl. Fabric CQ2. Burnished. Curved groove c. 9mm wide and 1.5mm deep on upper shoulder. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized to unoxidized interior surfaces, and oxidized core (yellow brown). From fill of northern inner gully.

Fig. 53.4 Vessel 35. Flat base. Diameter 6.5cm. Fabric U1. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of northern inner gully.

Fig. 53.5 Vessel 36. Foot-ring base. Foot diameter 7cm. Fabric U1. Burnished. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, part oxidized interior margin, and unoxidized core. From fill of northern inner gully.

Fig. 53.6 Vessel 37. Rounded body, out-turned vestigial neck and rounded rim of globular jar/bowl. Rim diameter c. 14cm. Fabric Fe. ?Burnished. Oxidized exterior surface, oxidized to unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core. From fill of northern inner gully.

Pit [687], ditch terminal recut in Circular Structure 4

Fig. 54.1 Vessel 38. Slightly rounded 'shoulder' and out-turned, internally bevelled, finger-tip impressed rim of globular or (less likely) round shouldered jar. Rim diameter c. 12cm. Fabric U1. Burnt. Oxidized exterior surface, oxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core.

Fig. 54.2 Vessel 39. Slightly rounded 'shoulder' and out-turned, internally bevelled, finger-tip impressed rim of globular or round shouldered jar. Rim diameter c. 14cm. Fabric U2/C. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core.

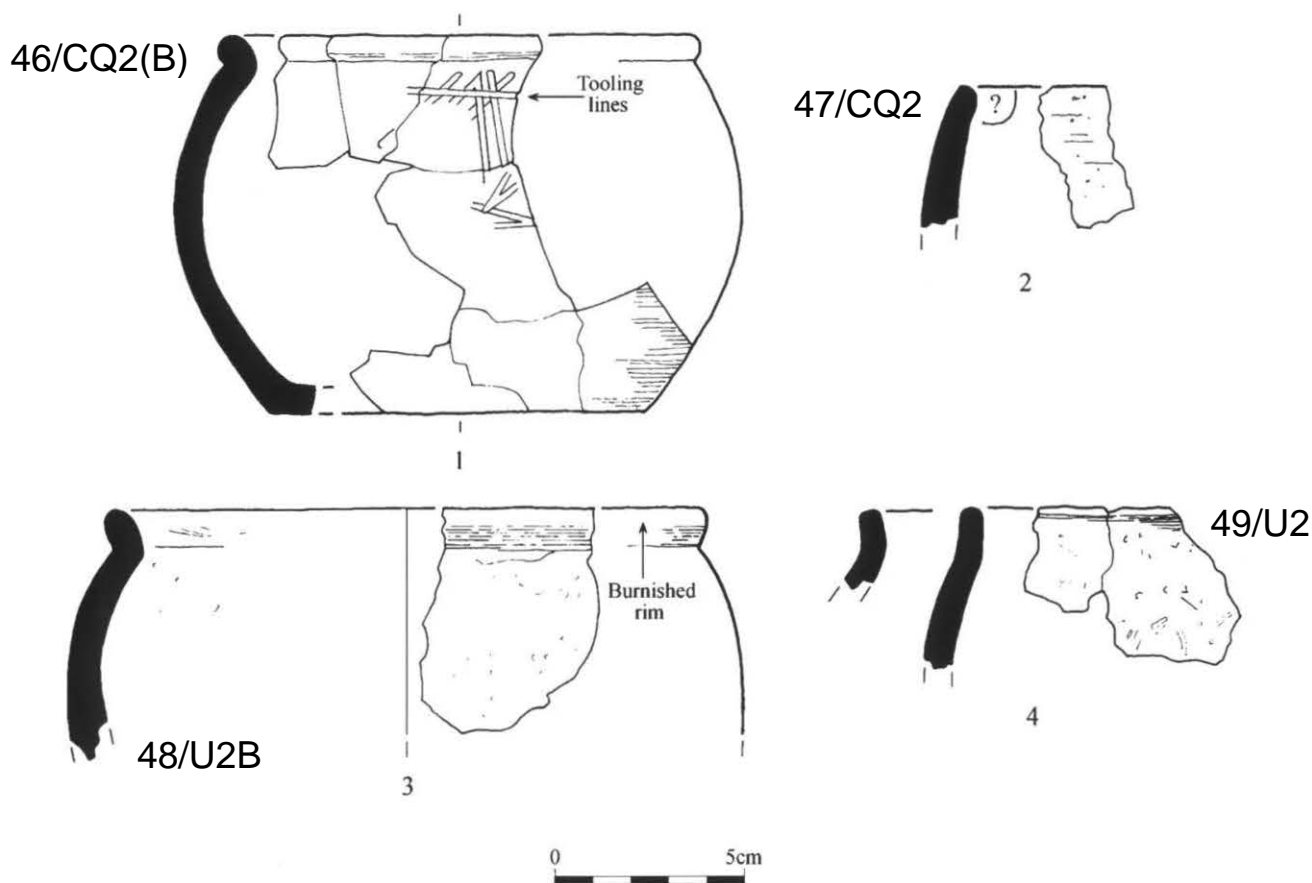


Fig. 56 Pottery from pit [1959] in Circular Structure 7 (scale 1:2)

Fig. 54.3 Vessel 40. Finger-tip impressed rim. Fabric CQ2. Unoxidized exterior surface, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core.

Fig. 54.4 Vessel 41. Lower body, rounded shoulder, upright neck and rounded rim of shouldered jar. Rim diameter c. 12cm. Fabric U1. Vertical drag marks on lower body. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Pit [712], in Circular Structure 9

Fig. 54.5 Vessel 42. Flat base, rounded shoulder and out-turned, rounded, internally thickened rim of round shouldered jar. Fabric FFCQ. Roughly burnished. Oxidized to unoxidized exterior surfaces, oxidized to unoxidized interior surfaces (dark brown), and unoxidized core. Saucepan pot

Pit [797], in Circular Structure 7

Fig. 55.1 Vessel 43. Rounded body, out-turned vestigial neck and rounded rim of globular or round shouldered jar. Fabric CQ1. Oxidized (dark) to unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surface, and unoxidized core.

Pit [1426], in Circular Structure 8

Fig. 55.2 Vessel 44. Flat base, rounded body and in-turned, flat horizontal rim of convex-sided jar. Rim diameter 13.5 cm. Fabric CQ2. Vertical drag marks on lower body. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Pit [1453], in Circular Structure 3

Fig. 55.3 Vessel 45. Lower body, rounded shoulder, upright neck and flat internally expanded rim of round shouldered jar. Rim diameter 26cm. Fabric CQ1. ?Burnished. Unoxidized to oxidized (red) exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Pit [1959], in Circular Structure 7

Fig. 56.1 Vessel 46. Flat base, rounded body and out-turned rounded bead rim of globular jar/bowl. Rim diameter 12.5cm. Fabric CQ2. Burnished. Very weathered tooled/burnished decoration below rim comprising an irregular pattern of crossing diagonal and horizontal lines. Oxidized to unoxidized (brown) exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Fig. 56.2 Vessel 47. Rounded upper body and flat squared rim of convex-sided jar. Fabric CQ2. Horizontally finger-smeared exterior. Unoxidized exterior surface, oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Fig. 56.3 Vessel 48. Rounded body and out-turned vestigial neck/rounded bead rim of barrel-shaped or round shouldered jar. Fabric U2. ?Burnished. Horizontal groove immediately below

rim. Unoxidized to oxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized to oxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Fig. 56.4 Vessel 49. Upper shoulder, upright neck and flat squared rim of possible round shouldered jar. Fabric U2. Unoxidized exterior surfaces, unoxidized interior surfaces, and unoxidized core.

Fabrics

Of the nineteen prehistoric fabrics distinguished at the site (Appendix 1, Table 7), nine were Middle Iron Age and Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age (fabrics CQ1, Q1 and Fe, then CQ2, U1, U2, Q2, F2 and FFCQ), and two Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age (fabrics FFCQ and G). Two fabrics have both Neolithic and Iron Age associations (fabrics F3 and FCQ) (Appendix, Tables 8 and 9).

The regional context of the fabrics

The bulk of the later Iron Age fabrics closely resemble those from nearby Heathrow and Brooklands. No doubt the raw materials for all three assemblages originated nearby (cf Potter 1977, 23; Williams 1993, 351–252). Where this was exactly, and whether or not it was the same for all three sites, is not, and, given the nature of the geologies concerned, cannot be known. Irrespective of their origins, however, it is clear that sandy and sideritic fabrics were favoured at this time in the region. Further down the Thames at Isleworth (Timby 1996, 47), and on the edge of the Downs at Ashted (unpublished) identical fabrics occur in later Iron Age assemblages. These fabrics cannot be shown to represent centralized potting, but they are characteristic of a unifying trend and, in the Surrey/Thames Valley region at least, chronologically diagnostic. As such they provide a final clue to the origin of the non-local vessel types described above. The globular bowls (Vessels 37 and 46, Figs 53.6, 56.1) and the grooved bi-partite jar (Vessel 34, Fig 53.3) are in characteristic Surrey/Thames Valley fabrics and are unlikely to be imports, whereas the flint-tempered fabric of the other bi-partite bowl (Vessel 17, 25, Fig. 50.7) is untypical of contemporary local fabrics. It is an import, probably from the south-central region where it and the fabric in which it occurs are best paralleled.

The internal relationships of the assemblage

The later Iron Age assemblage is divisible into three groups: Middle Iron Age, Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age. The bulk of it belongs to the end of the Middle Iron Age, after which pottery deposition reduced dramatically. The Middle Iron Age and Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age groups can be divided between medium and fine wares on textural grounds. Where the exterior surfaces of distinguishable vessels survive, about a third, irrespective of fabric, were burnished. Two fabrics only were always burnished (fabrics Q2 and F2). For this reason it is not possible to draw a meaningful division between fine and other wares as it is in the pottery of the immediately

preceding traditions. Fabric selection, however, was not random. Closed mouth jars with 'pointed' rims, of which there are four from three different features, occur in only two fabrics (U2 and Q2) and convex-sided jars, of which there are four from four different features, occur in a single fabric only (CQ2). The first of these is attributable to chronological change. This is indicated by the proposed Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age date for 'pointed' rims, the stratigraphic relationships of two of them (Vessels 11 and 13, Figs 50.1, 50.3), and the stratigraphic, fabric and/or typological relationships of the fabric in which the other two occur (fabric Q2) (Appendix, Table 8). The second, self evidently, is attributable to the unifying trend in pottery production postulated above.

These characteristics are the key to understanding how the site functioned. Pottery attributable to the different Iron Age phases identified occurred across the site. In particular most of the ring-ditches yielded both Middle Iron Age and Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age material. There are two likely explanations for this: 1) the features which yielded multi-period groups were in use for an extended period of time; and 2) the fills of these include material dug from earlier features. Most compelling is the first of these. Minority Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age fabrics Q2 or F2 occurred in all the penannular ditches, except those of Circular Structure 3 (Appendix, Table 8). Assuming a single deposition mechanism, the remaining six could have been active at the same time. Two of them, however, have earlier dated lower fills, which suggest a longer life. The last option is supported by the identification of sherds from a single vessel in widely separated features (the bi-partite bowl in Circular Structure 9/Pit 712 and Circular Structures 6 and 7) and the presence in a pit with a Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age *terminus ante quem* of a typologically early jar (Vessel 41, pit [687], Fig. 54.4). The presence of sherds from a single vessel in different features may also indicate that these features were open at the same time. Diagnostically Late Iron Age pottery comes from only three features indicating a major change in the nature and intensity of pottery using activity on site.

Discussion

The Iron Age group includes pottery of Middle Iron Age, Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age date. Most abundant is that belonging to the end of the Middle Iron Age. This has parallels in the Midlands, southeast and south-central England. Only one vessel, however, can be shown to have been imported (from Sussex); indeed the fabric suite identified demonstrates the existence in the region of a distinct local pottery tradition. The stratigraphic relationships of the assemblage indicate the coeval and long-lived use of many later Iron Age features. This came to an end during the Late Iron Age.

For the later Iron Age assemblage, the analysis has thrown-up a range of associated forms, only some of which were previously known in the area. Additionally comparisons between the fabrics comprising the assemblage and those from nearby later Iron Age sites

has suggested the existence of a recurring Surrey/Thames Valley fabric suite. Together these highlight the existence of a distinguishable local group, which has not hitherto been recognized (*cf* Cunliffe 1991). Looked at in context, its study can be expected to enhance the chronological resolution of other similar assemblages from the region and so help put this regionally understudied period into context. For example, in the light of evidence for a trade in querns between Sussex and Surrey at about this period (Peacock 1987, 81), it is of interest that the site received a pottery import from the south-central region, and that stylistically pottery manufactured locally leaned as much towards the south-central region as it did towards the Thames Valley.

THE CLAY OBJECTS

Berni Sudds

A fairly substantial quantity of fragmentary unburnt, burnt and fired clay was recovered from site. Although much is likely to represent degraded daub, triangular weights have also been identified. As made from the same local brickearth, often containing similar inclusions, it has proved difficult to isolate form when dealing with small fragments. Consequently, the relative quantities tabulated here (Table 2) could be misleading and, more significantly, the number of weights could be under-represented.

Fabrics

Group A: Redeposited brickearth/ unburnt daub

Fabric 2: Brickearth. Yellowish brown. Moderate to abundant sub-angular to rounded clear, white and pink sand up to 1mm. Occasional angular flint up to 2.5mm. The sand is poorly mixed, often occurring in pockets.

Group B: Fine

Fabrics in group B are all similarly fine and silty. Types 1b and 4 may simply represent a variation in colour within the same fabric resulting from differential burning and/or iron content.

Fabric 1: Brickearth. Mottled yellowish red and yellow with a reduced grey core. Occasional sub-angular to well rounded clear, white and pink sand up to 0.7mm, rare angular flint up to 1mm, organics and iron ore/iron staining.

Fabric 1a: As fabric 1 but with rare sand and abundant organics up to 1.25mm.

Fabric 1b: As fabric 1 but yellowish red to red and with rare sand.

Fabric 4: Brickearth. Predominantly red, occasional very pale brown/grey. Similar to fabric 1b. Rare to occasional sand but abundant iron ore/iron staining.



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Middle Iron Age pot 55.2



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Middle Iron Age pot 55.2 (detail)



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Middle Iron Age pot 56.1



Figure 00

Ashford Prison Middle Iron Age pot 56.1 (detail)

APPENDIX: PREHISTORIC POTTERY TABLES

Category	Fabric code	Inclusions	Thickness in mm	Firing	Other
Flint-tempered	CF1	10–15 % coarse sand to very small pebble-size F	8–9	UC	F aligned with sherd surfaces
	CF2	5–7% coarse sand to very small pebble-size F	5–7	OX, UIC	Silky finish, laminated
	F1	15–20 % medium sand to small granule-size F	10–13	OX, U or OI, UC	
	F2	7–10% coarse to (occasionally) very coarse sand-size F, and up to 10% coarse sand-size S	6–7	UXIC	
	F3	3% medium sand to small granule sized F	9–10	OX, U or OI, UC	
	FF	3–5% medium (mostly) to coarse sand-size F, and 30–40% fine quartz sand	6.5–8	Usually UXIC	
Sandy flint-tempered	CFCQ	2–7% coarse sand to very small pebble-size F, and c 20% medium to coarse quartz sand	5.5–8	OX, UIC	
	CFQ	15% coarse sand to small pebble-size F, and 20–30% fine quartz sand	7–13	OX, UIC	
	FCQ	3–7% medium sand to small granule-size F, and c 20% medium to coarse quartz sand	c 8	OX, UIC	
	FCQ (Fe)	3–7% medium sand to small granule-size F, and c 20% medium to coarse quartz sand, and up to 10% coarse sand-size S	7–9	U to OXI, UC	Three sherds only. Unoxidized variants possibly indistinguishable from fabric FCQ
	FFCQ	3–5% medium to coarse sand-size F, and c 25% medium to coarse quartz sand	5.5–9	U to OXI, UC	
Sandy	CQ1	20–30% medium to coarse quartz sand, and c 10% coarse sand to small granule-size S	7–9	O to UX, UIC	
	CQ2	20–30% medium to coarse quartz sand, and <1% F. Many sherds incorporate sizeable fragments of charred organic material	6–9	UXIC (infrequent oxidization) Frequently laminated	
	Q1	30–40% fine and 2% medium to coarse quartz sand, and rare <1% F	10	UXIC	
	Q2	30–40% fine quartz sand, and up to 10% coarse sand-size S	5–8	OXI or UXI with OM, U to OC	
Grog-tempered	G	Unquantifiable grog, variable quantities of fine quartz sand, and up to 10% coarse sand-size S	8–10	U to OXI, UC	
Other	Fe	c 10% S, c 20% fine quartz sand	7–9	OX, O to UI, UC	Easily confused with oxidized variants of fabric G
	U1	10–20% medium to coarse quartz sand, <1% F, and up to 10% coarse sand-size S	7–11	U or OXI, UC	
	U2	<5% medium to coarse quartz sand, and up to 7% coarse sand-size S. A very few sherds incorporate possible decalcified chalk/limestone nodules	6.5–9	UXIC	Variable hardness. Characterized by its light weight

NB. No attempt was made to distinguish fabric variants incorporating carbonaceous material in proportions lower than identified in fabric CQ2. The percentages of quartz sand given are rough estimates only.

F = burnt flint; G = grog; Q = quartz sand; S = rounded siderite nodules. Grain size classification after PPRG 1991, 35

U = unoxidized; O = oxidized; X = exterior surface; I = interior surface; C = core; M = margin

	Coarsewares		Medium wares		Finewares
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Table 7 Prehistoric pottery fabrics

Fabric and fabric date

Feature date (TPQ)

Feature			<div><div>NEO</div><div>MIA</div><div>MIA/LIA</div><div>LIA</div><div>NEO or IA</div></div>																		
			CF1	CF2	CFCQ	CFQ	F1	FF	F3	FCQ	CQ1	Fe	Q1	CQ2	U1	U2	Q2	F2	FFCQ	G	
			Weight in grams																		
Ditch	2035	Linear assoc. with RD1	12	0	1	10	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NEO
Ditch	2037	Linear assoc. with RD1	0	0	0	18	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ditch	2040	Linear assoc. with RD1	0	12	10	32	4	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ditch	2060	BA field system	35	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ditch	2062	BA field system	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
RD1	2085	upper fill	0	5	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
RD1	2086	secondary fill	27	246	19	32	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?1	0	0	
RD1	2087	primary fill	0	0	9	1	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
RD1	N/A	fill	0	90	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 588	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 596	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 677	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 866	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 868	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit 1148	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CS5	2093	fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit	797	In CS7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	MIA
Pit	1426	In CS8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	186	0	0	0	0	0	
Pit	1453	In CS3	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	16	396	16	140	0	127	208	0	0	0	0	
CS9	2092	primary fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	
CS1	2095	fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	35	0	5	0	0	0	0	
CS2	2096	fill	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	
CS6	2098	primary fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	29	62	0	39	107	103	96	0	0	0	0	
CS3	2104	fill	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	30	195	21	0	0	0	0	
CS3	2106	inner fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	

4-post	2113	FP1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
4-post	2118	FP2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Pit	2124	In CS5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	0	0	0	0
Pit 655	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Pit 657	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0
Pit 675	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pit 837	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pit 1136	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pit 1964	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Ditch	2081	Pit circle, RD1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0
CS6	2097	upper fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	35	48	0	0	0	0
CS6/7	2102	fill/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	4	336	339	159	0	29	0	0
4-post	2107	FP7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	13	27	0	1	10	0	0
CS4	2088	upper fill	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	52	89	13	0	64	275	98	4	16	8	0
CS4	2089	primary fill	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	2	11	0	0	41	109	1	11	0	14	0
CS4	2090	inner fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	13	0	0	0	2	0
Pit	687	CS4, terminal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	142	0	0	0	0	0
CS9	2091	upper fill	0	0	0	0	0	3	26	4	15	0	0	0	160	14	3	2	6	0
Pit	712	CS 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	30	36	22	0	6	253	0
CS5	2094	outer fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
CS7	2100	fill	0	0	1	5	0	0	3	0	57	0	0	188	166	209	31	15	39	0
CS8	2103	fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	35	0	20	113	259	82	24	14	3	0
4-post	2111	FP5	0	0	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0
4-post	2126	FP3	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	23	13	0	0	22	12	19	6	0	10	0
878	2128	Pit circle, RD1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Pit	1959	CS7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	0	102	0	0	9	0
CS9	N/A	fill	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	8	0	0	9	40	0	0	0	0	47
CS3	2105	inner fill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	70	0	141	383	69	0	0	28	28	
4-post	2109	FP9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31

NEO = Neolithic; MIA = Middle Iron Age; LIA = Late Iron Age; IA = Iron Age (undifferentiated); FP = Four-post Structure; CS = Circular Structure; RD = Ring-ditch

Table 8 Sherd weight, date range of individual pottery fabrics and pottery dating of key excavated contexts

Pottery traditions		Chronologically diagnostic traits	Fabric and fabric date												
			(NEO = Neolithic; LBA = Late Bronze Age; MIA = Middle Iron Age; LIA = Late Iron Age)												
			CF1	CF2	CFQ	FCQ (Fe)	CQ1	Fe	CQ2	U1	U2	Q2	F2	FFCQ	G
			Catalogued vessels												
Ebsfleet		Incised, cross-hatched rim decoration		4											
	Mortlake	Tool-impressed decoration	2	4, 5	B										
		Twisted or whip-cord impressed decoration	2	1, 3											
	Post Deverel-Rimbury	Developed rim, high waist and deep cavetto zone	2	3											
		Shouldered jar with finger-tip impressed shoulder				6, D									
	Saucepan pottery and associated traditions	Convex-sided jar							15, 23, 44, 47, ?N						
		Flared neck with flat-topped rim										7			
		Round shouldered jar with short upright-neck					33, 45		?21	9, 12, 41	32, ?49, p				
		Finger-tip impressed or cabled rim					33		40	9, 38	39				
		Round shouldered jar with slightly out-turned vestigial neck					10, 43				?48				
		Undecorated saucepan pot							18, L 46			30			
		Globular bowl						37			?19				
		Decorated saucepan pot									?19				
		Bi-partite jar with thick grooved decoration on vessel body							34						
		Finger-tip impressed/slashed bead rim								38	39				
		S-shaped jar with foot-ring base							27, R	36					
		Bi-partite jar with out-turned rim											17, 25		
		Atrebat/Belgic	Bead rim				26		46		19, Q			22	
			Pointed, internally thickened rim								11, 13	20, 31			
			Pedestal base							H					K
			Out-turned, internally thickened rim											8, 42	
			NEO												
					LBA										
						MIA									
							MIA/LIA								
									LIA						

Table 9 Neolithic, Bronze Age and later Iron Age pottery. The correlation between pottery fabrics and dateable feature sherds

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